

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
PROCLAMATION

EO 00-13

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME — GREETINGS:

AN EXECUTIVE ORDER CREATING THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL FOR INTERSTATE DAIRY COMPACTS.

WHEREAS, there are currently 427 dairy farms in Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, there are currently 637 million pounds of milk produced in Arkansas every year; and

WHEREAS, Arkansas lost 35 dairy farms between 1999 and 2000; and

WHEREAS, if Arkansas enters a dairy compact, Arkansas farmers would receive and estimated \$6.37 million added dollars of income annually; and

WHEREAS, this number of added receipts represents 6.5% of Arkansas' current dairy revenue; and

WHEREAS, the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact ("the Compact") has proven its effectiveness and benefit to the public interest of the six states in New England; and

WHEREAS, the Compact has been a model of success, demonstrating that states can work cooperatively on behalf of farmers and consumers to bring common sense and fairness to the dairy industry, yet the consent of the U.S. Congress to the Compact is set to expire on September 30, 2001; and

WHEREAS, the Compact has paid over \$120 million to dairy farmers in Compact states since August 1997; and

WHEREAS, the Compact helps provide economic stability to local, rural communities by also benefiting feed stores, farm equipment suppliers and maintenance workers, farm supply stores, local banks, tourism, and the construction trades; and

WHEREAS, the Compact has helped local dairy farmers stay in the business of farming and helps preserve the open working landscapes of America and vibrant downtowns; and

WHEREAS, local dairy farms are important to maintaining the continuous supply of fresh milk to neighboring communities and cities; and

WHEREAS, states have the right under the Constitution to form compacts when it is in the best interest of their citizens to do so; and

WHEREAS, in large part based on the demonstrated benefit of the Compact, the states of Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania have adopted legislation authorizing their participation in the Compact; and

WHEREAS, the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia have adopted legislation to establish a Southern Interstate Dairy Compact for their states; and

WHEREAS, the states, through their elected officials must promote the benefits of compact legislation that they have passed and enacted; and

WHEREAS, these twenty-five states that have passed compact legislation are now formally presenting to Congress the re-approval and expansion of the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact and the authorization of the Southern Interstate Dairy Compact; and

WHEREAS, the several states will benefit from a unified and effective advocacy of each state’s right to promote policies beneficial both to their own citizens, and to the citizens of neighboring states, regarding the use of compacts to further the sustainability of rural economies;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, by virtue of the power vested in me as Governor of the State Of Arkansas, do hereby create the Governor’s Council for Compacts (“the Council”). The Council shall:

- 1. Help to document and promote the value and compelling public interest served through interstate dairy compacts;
- 2. Advocate and promote the support of compacts to Congress on behalf of compact states;
- 3. Regularly report to the governors of compact states on the work of the Council;
- 4. Coordinate with farmers, state agricultural commissioners and citizens of rural states on the advocacy of compacts.

The Council shall consist of the Secretary of Administration of the State of Vermont and her designee, a designee of the Office of the Governor of the state of Arkansas, and other designees of other states who shall join the compact in the future. The council shall work on behalf the states participating in, or anticipating participation in, the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact and a Southern Interstate Dairy Compact. The Council shall invite direct participation by other governors or their designees who have made contributions on behalf of their states to the Council as well as inviting participation by the congressional delegations from participatory states. This Executive Order may be amended from time to time to add members to the Council.

The Council shall meet periodically to develop and supervise a work plan to execute the mandate of this Order. At any time the Council may go into executive session, pursuant to the Arkansas Code and the Freedom of Information Act.

The Council is authorized, in accordance with the Arkansas Code, to apply for and receive such Federal and other grants and funds as may be available, including but not limited to private donations and public appropriations. The Secretary of Administration of the State of Vermont shall establish a fund to receive and manage such funds on behalf of the State of Arkansas. The Council shall account for such funds in its annual report to the Governor.



GOVERNOR MIKE HUCKABEE

SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST